

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A control rod blade for a boiling water reactor, comprising a plurality of channels each of a predetermined diameter and oriented about a longitudinal axis, said channels being arranged to receive an absorber material, a free edge portion with a recess, which includes outlets for said channels, and a cover element having a cover portion, said cover element being sealingly attached to said free edge portion to seal said recess, said cover portion is positioned outside of said recess and forms an external end surface of said control rod blade in a mounted state, a ~~thin~~-profile element having a thickness less than the diameter of the channels, wherein said thickness is measured along an axis of said profile element coaxial with said longitudinal axis, said ~~thin~~-profile element being disposed against a bottom surface defined by the recess; and said ~~thin~~-profile element covers the outlets of said channels and wherein said profile element and said cover element engage one another and cooperate to define at least one passage there between.

17. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element has a width which substantially corresponds to a width defined by the bottom surface.

18. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element comprises a substantially plane surface, which is arranged to be applied against a corresponding substantially plane bottom surface.

19. (Currently amended) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element comprises at least one curved side portion, which has an extension projecting outwardly ~~upwards~~ from a substantially plane surface.

20. (Previously presented) A. control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element has a thickness of about 0.2 - 0.5 mm.

21. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element has a continuous extension along a whole length of the recess.
22. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the profile element is manufactured of a metal material.
23. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the cover element comprises a surface, which is arranged to abut a surface of the profile element when the cover element is applied in the recess.
24. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 23, wherein the contact surfaces of the profile element and the cover element are substantially plane.
25. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the cover element comprises support portion, which has a width, which is less than a width defined by the recess.
26. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the recess comprises a groove which, after that the profile element has been applied in the recess, is arranged to form a passage, which extends between adjacent channels under the profile element.
27. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the cover element is arranged to be attached at the edge portion of the control rod blade by means of two longitudinal weld joints.
28. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 16, wherein the absorber material is powdered.
29. (Previously presented) A control rod blade according to claim 28, wherein the absorber material comprises boron carbide.